THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been established under the Food Corporation Act, 1964. Section 13 of the said Act provides, *inter alia*, that it shall be the primary duty of the FCI to undertake the purchase, storage, movement, transport, distribution and sale of foodgrains and other foodstuffs. The foodgrains procured by the FCI are stored on scientific lines.

Implementation of ESIC programme

*244. V. V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) to implement the programme it had drawn up for the Golden Jubilee year;

(b) what is the aggregate amount the insurers are to get as on the 31st March, 2001;

(c) what amount would be disbursed during the Golden Jubilee year; and

(d) how many model hospitals would be set up on the basis of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The ESI Corporation has approved the following activities to be undertaken during the Golden Jubilee Year.

(i) *National Level Activities:*—

A Seminar on Social Security to be held around 24th February, 2002 at New Delhi.

(ii) *Zonal Level Activities:*—

Seminars on Social Security for Unorganised Sector at Calcutta, Multi-speciality Medical Conference for ESIC/ESIS Doctors at Mumbai and Role of Health Insurance in Social Security in Bangalore.

The Seminars at Calcutta and Mumbai have already been organized, while the one at Bangalore will be organized shortly.

(iii) *State Level Functions:*—

Health Check-up Camps, Blood Donation Camps, Maternal & Child Health, Health March, Employers/Employees Seminars, clearance of pending medical reimbusement bills has been planned.

(iv) Other activities relate to release of Postal Stamp and release of Souvenir on 24.2.2002, preparation of documentary film on ESI Scheme, publication of employers/employees guide, distribution of awards for best run hospitals and Dispensary at Zonal level on 24.2.2002.

(v) The documentary film and the employers/employees guide have already been released.

(b) All efforts are being made by ESI Corporation to improve the service dilivery system to enhance patient satisfaction.

(c) It has been decided that all pending bills regarding reimbursement of medical expenditure upto 31st March, 2001 may be cleared. Accordingly, the information regarding pending bills has been called for from the State Govts.

(d) The ESI Corporation has decided to set up one Model Hospital in each State, with the consent of the State Govt.

Sanction of Telephone Towers

*245. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that towers for giving telephone connectivity and television facility particularly to Parvati Valley and other connected areas in Kullu District, Ashapuri Valley and other connected areas in Kangra District in Himachal Pradesh were sanctioned during 1994 to 1996 by the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) whether foundation was also completed during the period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken or proposed to be taken to complete the projects and if no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) A tower was sanctioned at Bijli Mahadev in Parvati Valley in Kullu district for extending telephone junction connectivity to Manikaran Telephone Exchange from Kullu on digital Microwave system. A tower at Ashapuri was also sanctioned for 7GHz Digital Microwave link from Palampur to Ashapuri. These